



## 2009 "VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH INVASIVES" GRANTS REPORT FORM

### Display Report

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

<b>Project Title:</b>	Invasive vegetation survey, control and Habitat Restoration on Ridgefield Refuge Complex Refuges	
<b>Region: Use region number ONLY</b>	1	
<b>Station:</b>	Ridgefield, Steigerwald, and Pierce NWRs	
<b>Contact Person:</b> Name and Phone Number	Lynn Cornelius 360 887-3883	
<b>Project Description:</b> (Up to 250 words)	Utilizing volunteers, a Restoration Coordinator, and a seasonal AmeriCorps/STEP position, this project's goal is to: Continue surveillance, recording, and removal of all occurrences of Ricefield Bulrush on Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Continue new surveillance, early detection, mapping and treatment of Refuge habitat for blackberry, purple loosestrife, indigobush, yellow water iris, fragrant water lily, and other key and new invasive plants. Collect and analyze data from current ricefield bulrush study area and expand to increase validity of the study. Continue riparian restoration along Gee Creek. Treat reed canarygrass, blackberry and indigobush on Steigerwald and Pierce NWRs. Train volunteers on herbicide application, invasive plant identification and ATV use for invasive removal and habitat restoration projects, and engage new volunteers and partners in Refuge habitat projects.	
<b>List of Invasives Species Targeted:</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
	ricefield bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus (Scirpus) mucronatus</i>
	Himalayan (Armenian) blackberry	<i>Rubus discolor (R. armenicus)</i>
	fragrant water lily	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>
	Japanese knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>
	purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
	yellow water iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
	indigobush	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>
	reed canary-grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>
<b>Project Status:</b>	Completed	
<b>Project Completion Date or Estimated Completion Date:</b> (mm/dd/yyyy)	09/30/2010	

## VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Volunteer Affiliation: (Check all that apply)	VA_Scouts	VA_SchoolGrp	VA_Other
<b>Volunteer Involvement:</b> Describe the type of work the volunteers performed. (Up to 150 words)	Volunteers hand-pulled and dug invasive plants and chemically treated invasive plants on foot, by ATV, and by boat. 2 new herbicide applicators were engaged. 14 invasive plant hunter volunteers surveyed for invasives on foot, in canoes, and by ATV. Volunteers planted trees and maintained trees, helped collect count data, and used GPS to create map points for transfer into GIS. Tree planting volunteers and hours were 200% over predicted due to the Disney volunteer program in 2010.		
<b>Total Number of Volunteers:</b>	551		
<b>Total Number of Volunteer Hours:</b>	1,842		
<b>Partnerships:</b> List both new and existing partnerships utilized in this project. (Up to 150 words).	The WSU Clark County Extension Gee Creek Watershed coordinator directed project work and volunteers in 2009. the new Friends of Ridgefield NWR Restoration Coordinator (same individual-new sponsor) directed project volunteers to execute project goals in 2010. Friends purchased supplies and equipment and administered the Coordinator position in 2010. Funds of \$10,480 were obligated to the Friends of Ridgefield NWR for FY 2010. In addition to area schools and many community volunteers, the following organizations helped with volunteer outreach and labor: Friends of Ridgefield NWR, WSU Clark County Extension, New Heights Church, Clark County Watershed Stewards, Clark College, Gee Creek Enhancement Committee, City of Ridgefield, WSU Vancouver, and Warner Pacific College. Many new volunteer families came through the Disney Give-a-Day,Get-a-Day program.		

## PROJECT RESULTS

<b>Project Results:</b> Give an overview of the results of the project. Include quantifiable measure of success, such as maps produced, efficacy of control measures, number of sites where invasions were detected early and responded to, number of community contacts, etc. (Up to 250 words).	Restoration: Ridgefield NWR: The Coordinator, AmeriCorps, and STEP student coordinated volunteers who dug invasives on 72 acres of habitat including 8,150 ricefield bulrush plants. Crews planted 2,400 trees and shrubs on 4 acres. Fourteen (14) volunteer plant hunters searched 1,625 acres and 5 licensed volunteer herbicide applicators sprayed invasives on 75 acres. Volunteers prepared, repaired, and maintained plantations. Volunteer numbers for plantings were 200% over predicted due to a Disney volunteer promotion. Photopoints, GPS maps, and plot data were measured to monitor results. GPS locations were mapped for key invasive plant species. Early occurrences of iris, loosestrife, knapweed, ivy, bulrush, and pampas grass were detected in new areas of the refuge and removed. Steigerwald/Franz Lake/Pierce NWRS: Volunteers sprayed invasives on 4 acres and GPS-mapped invasives along 2 miles of shoreline. Outreach: Partners generated more than 551 community volunteer visits contributing more than 1,842 hours. Methods included 4 press releases, 2 volunteer project flyers, online postings, and an email calendar. Outreach was posted at Refuge & community bulletin boards, on web sites, released to list serves, and provided at key public events. Volunteers further disseminated restoration issues in the community by word of mouth and were educated during work events on invasive plant control. Grant Match: \$8,280 of project value was used to leverage a 1:1 match in private grant funding as part of a combined project. Accomplishments reflect the larger combined project funded by 3 grant sources.
<b>Number of Acres Treated:</b>	151
<b>Number of Acres Inventoried and/or Mapped:</b>	1,625
<b>Number of Acres Restored:</b>	4

## BUDGET INFORMATION

**Budget:** Account for funds in broad categories such as equipment, volunteer stipends, travel, coordinator salary/contract, etc.

<b>Total Grant Amount:</b>	\$ \$12,480
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### Breakdown of Expenditures:

Category	Total \$ Spent	% of Total Grant
Equipment / Supplies	4,650	37.3%
Chemical	352	2.8%
Biocontrol Agents	0	
Travel	0	
Volunteer Stipends	0	
Volunteer Coordinator Salary/Contract	2,200	17.6%
Restoration Materials	4,440	35.6%
Other		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,480</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Recommendations: (OPTIONAL)

How useful was this program for meeting refuge invasive species objectives and how can it be improved?

Without this funding, the Refuge would be unable to continue the Invasive Removal and Riparian Restoration programs at their current level, and momentum gained over the last 4 years would be lost. Small pockets of new or overlooked infestations would be able to grow and spread (possibly even off-refuge). Funding for a Restoration Coordinator position is critical to the recruitment, use, and retention of volunteers and to gain ground on invasive plant objectives. Allowing funding for "volunteer coordinator" salary should be a high priority for any grant that utilizes volunteers to complete tasks. In addition, \$8,280 in project funding was used to obtain 1:1 private match funding. We appreciate the funding support for supplies/equipment and coordinator salary to help us achieve early detection, map extent, and focus rapid control efforts effectively.

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